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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/362
5 May 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 5 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As you will doubtless have learned, the Second Session of the Central Organ of the Mechanism of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa took place at Tunis (Republic of Tunisia) on 20 April 1995.

Organized at the initiative of His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, current Chairman of OAU, the meeting was held at the summit level, with the participation, in addition to the Head of State of Tunisia, of Presidents Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGANYA (Burundi), Mobutu SESE SEKO (Zaire), Idriss DEBY (Chad), Henri Konan BEDIE (Côte d'Ivoire) and Meles ZENAWI (Ethiopia). The First Vice-President of South Africa, Thabo MBEKI, and Ministers from Benin, Mauritius, Nigeria, Tanzania and Egypt also took part.

Please find attached an excerpt from the report of the session, concerning Burundi. I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tharcisse NTAKIBIRORA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Report of the Second Regular Session of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, held at the level of Heads of State and Government

20 April 1995

Tunis, Tunisia

Part relating to Burundi

Burundi

14. The Central Organ noted with appreciation the report of the ministerial delegation composed of the Secretary General, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of South Africa and Mauritius, the Tunisian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, which undertook a mission to Burundi on 12 April 1995. It also noted the statement by H.E. Mr. Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGANYA on the current situation in his country.

15. It expressed deep concern at the resurgence of political and institutional crises in the country, more particularly the recent outbreak of violence, political assassinations and acts of ethnic cleansing in certain parts of the country.

16. It welcomed the recent efforts made by the President and the Prime Minister, as well as by the other political leaders who have decided to work within the framework of the Convention of Government of 10 September 1994, and their determination to make Burundi public opinion aware of the need to put an end to the violence and promote genuine national reconciliation in the country.

17. It reiterated its firm support for the Convention of Government and appealed to all political and other forces, particularly the military and security forces in the country to work to ensure the full implementation of the Convention in order to restore and strengthen peace and security in Burundi.

18. It vigorously condemned the continuing militarization of Burundi society which has led the proliferation of militias in the country. It appealed for regional action to deal with the instability and insecurity caused by the introduction of weapons into Burundi and for concerted international action to help isolate and neutralize the extremists and disarm and immediately dismantle the militias and armed gangs involved in the Burundi crisis. It also called for an end to the culture and tradition of impunity in the region.

19. The Central Organ also reaffirmed its support for the commitments made at the Bujumbura Conference on refugees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes region and urged all parties concerned to ensure their immediate fulfilment. It emphasized the urgent need for the international community to increase humanitarian assistance and every other form of assistance to countries of asylum and displaced persons.

20. Concerning the OAU Observer Mission in Burundi (MIOB), the Central Organ welcomed the important role played by the Mission and stressed the need to maintain it so that it can help to restore trust and facilitate the national reconciliation process in Burundi. To that end, the Central Organ decided to extend the Mission's mandate for a further three-month period when its current mandate expires on 17 June 1995 and to increase its military component from 47 to 67 officers. It also requested the Secretary General to take the necessary steps to strengthen the Mission's civilian component. It further instructed the Ministers/Ambassadors of the Central Organ to take the appropriate steps when the mandate extended to September 1995 comes to an end.

21. The Central Organ emphasized the crucial role that neighbouring countries can play in establishing a lasting peace in Burundi. It also appealed to all the African States to give a practical demonstration of their concern at the situation in Burundi by sending missions regularly to that country, and also noted the decision by the ministerial delegation to undertake a follow-up mission to the country in late May 1995 to promote the cause of peace and national reconciliation. It then urged the States members of OAU and the international community as a whole to encourage and support the forces of moderation in Burundi and to do everything possible to isolate and neutralize the extremists.

22. The Central Organ emphasized the importance for OAU of being fully involved in any action that the United Nations Security Council might take concerning the situation in Burundi.

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S/1995/363
8 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Croatian Government proposed to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, that the representatives of the Croatian Army meet with the representatives of the Serbian paramilitary forces from the occupied territories under his auspices, in order to defuse the tensions in the zones of separation of former Sectors South, North and East.

With regard to the situation in Western Slavonia, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the diplomatic corps has today joined the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granic, in touring the area. All efforts are being made to normalize life in the liberated territories: the Zagreb-Vinkovci railway line has reopened, the radio station at Okučani is operating and schools are open; health, medical and social insurance has been extended to all the citizens in Western Slavonia; a one-time individual financial grant to help all persons in need in the liberated territories has been appropriated by the Government; further grants and loans for rebuilding of destroyed property are being prepared.

The competent authorities of the Croatian Government have in total detained 1,474 suspected members of Serbian paramilitary forces after the liberation of the occupied territory in Western Slavonia. They have been taken, under supervision of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to three processing centres in the adjacent areas: Varaždin, Požega and Bjelovar, for registration and questioning.

As of 1000 hours local time today, criminal investigative process against 105 of them has been initiated; 554 have been released, and the Abolition Act has been applied to them; a total of 816 remain in Varaždin and Bjelovar. The detention centre in Požega has been closed. Law enforcement authorities continue their processing of the remaining suspected members of Serbian paramilitary forces in the continued presence of EUMM, UNCRO and ICRC, and are expected to complete their task within several days.

The Republic of Croatia remains committed to the full and speedy implementation of the mandate of UNCRO, aimed at peaceful reintegration of the occupied territories into Croatia. In this regard, we remain ready to continue negotiation on the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolution with the representatives of the local authorities in Knin.

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/898
S/1995/364
8 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 39
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 7 May 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a letter of today's date from H.E. Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 7 May 1995 from the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

Sarajevo has been shelled again today. At least 10 people have been killed and 5 times as many wounded from single shell fired from a Serbian position within the exclusion zone.

For an extended period, Sarajevo is increasingly being targeted by forbidden weapons. Every day we bury the victims of this public and brazen crime against the civilian population.

Security Council resolutions 824 (1993), 836 (1993) and 900 (1994) and the ultimatum of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) of 9 February 1994 forbid such attacks against Sarajevo under the mandated threat of airstrikes.

With all due respect, I will take the liberty to ask whether the above-mentioned documents of the Security Council and NATO are still valid or have they become devalued pieces of paper.

If these documents are still valid, then meet the commitment and respond as mandated.

If they are no longer valid, then say that to the citizens of Sarajevo and to the world, and say who has abandoned them.

The present silence is shameful.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIC

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General Assembly
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Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/899
S/1995/365
8 May 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 74
PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF SMALL STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 8 May 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, in compliance with the commitment assumed by Ecuador under the Itamaraty Peace Declaration of 17 February 1995 and the Montevideo Peace Declaration of 28 February 1995, the process of separation and concentration at the Coangos border post (Ecuador) of the Ecuadorian military units that had remained in their positions in Alto Cenepa before and during the military conflict with Peru was completed on 2 May 1995.

With respect to the separation and concentration of forces, I should like to draw your attention to the following points:

(a) In the Itamaraty Peace Declaration, it was agreed that, as one way of achieving the peaceful settlement of the conflict, the military forces of Ecuador and Peru would be separated simultaneously in order to avoid a resumption of hostilities. In this regard, the Ecuadorian forces were to be concentrated at the Coangos border post and the Peruvian forces at guardpost No. 1.

(b) In this regard, it should be pointed out that the geographical coordinates of the Ecuadorian posts, including Tiwintza (03° 27' 57,18" latitude; 78° 15' 08,72" longitude) and Base Sur (03° 29' 51,03" latitude; 78° 14' 57,99" longitude), from which the Ecuadorian forces that have been concentrated at Coangos were withdrawn, were transmitted to the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol prior to the signing of the aforementioned Declarations. The coordinates are also contained in the April 1995 requests for the separation of forces sent by Major-General Cándido Vargas de Freire, Chief Coordinator of the Ecuador-Peru Military Observer Mission, to General César Durán Abad, Liaison Officer between Ecuador and the Mission.

(c) The Itamaraty Declaration provides, moreover, that the military observers of the guarantor countries are to set up centres of operations at points of greatest tension, as is the case of Tiwintza and Base Sur, with a view to monitoring in the best way possible the observance of the separation of troops and the subsequent demilitarization of the area.

(d) The Montevideo Declaration reiterated the validity of the cease-fire, the separation and concentration of forces at the points agreed at Itamaraty, and the immediate deployment of military observers of the guarantor countries.

(e) With the concentration in Coangos of the Ecuadorian troops that had been stationed in the conflict zone, particularly at Base Sur and Tiwintza, an operation about which the international community was informed through the international press, Ecuador has complied with its part of the process of separation of troops called for in the aforementioned Declarations.

(f) In accordance with the Itamaraty Declaration, it is now time to establish a totally demilitarized area that will help consolidate peace in the zone and begin the phase of the demobilization of the armed forces of the two countries. Ecuador will continue to cooperate with the signatories of the Declarations of Itamaraty and Montevideo in order to ensure the successful outcome of the peace process currently in progress.

(g) The Government of Ecuador considers that the Itamaraty and Montevideo Declarations constitute an important and, so far, successful contribution to the end of confrontations in Alto Cenepa. Nevertheless, the normalization of relations between Ecuador and Peru will still require additional efforts. Unfortunately, the two countries still differ with regard to territorial matters owing to legal shortcomings and the impossibility of implementing the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol in one geographic sector. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that Ecuador is prepared, as it always has been, to discuss ways of solving the problem with a view to promoting the peaceful and final settlement of its disputes with Peru.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/366
8 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF MOROCCO AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories, as well as to take the necessary measures for revocation of the recent Israeli confiscation orders in respect of Palestinian land situated in the area of East Jerusalem.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Permanent Representative

(Signed) Ali Thani AL-SUWAIDI
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

95-13842 (E) 080595 090595

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/367
8 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as current Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations, I have the honour to convey to you the Islamic Group's position towards the latest action taken recently by the Israeli Government with regard to Al-Quds al-Sharif (Holy Jerusalem) namely, its decision to confiscate 53 hectares of Palestinian land situated in the area of East Jerusalem and its announcement that such land is to be allocated for the purpose of continuing to build Israeli settlements, thus contravening the rules of international law as well as the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Islamic Group expresses its strong condemnation of the aforesaid Israeli action as a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the relevant Security Council resolutions. That action moreover undermines the Middle East peace process arrangements and severely threatens its progress as well as the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Islamic Group therefore officially requests the Security Council to take urgent steps to deal with this extremely serious situation and to put an end to the numerous Israeli violations, particularly in East Jerusalem, as well as to take the necessary measures for revocation of the Israeli confiscation orders.

The Islamic Group will continue to follow the developments in this regard in the light of the action to be taken by the Security Council, and in this context, the Group, in its meeting held on Thursday, 4 May 1995 at the ambassadorial level, convened at the request of the Permanent Observer of Palestine, decided to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss this recent grave situation concerning Jerusalem.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Permanent Representative

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Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/368
9 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith the statement of the Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army dated 3 May 1995.

I would be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

95-13949 (E) 090595 100595

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Annex

Statement of the Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army dated 3 May 1995

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea put forward a proposal for the establishment of a new peace arrangement system in April last year and actively took a series of practical steps for its realization.

The United States side, however, has shown no affirmative response to our reasonable proposal for a stable situation on the Korean peninsula and a durable peace in this region.

It withdrew its plan for the phased reduction of the United States troops in South Korea and has further stepped up the arms race and frequently staged military manoeuvres against our Republic in accordance with its new East Asia strategy.

According to the announcement of the United States military authorities, 150 Abrams tanks will be introduced into South Korea in May, and 24 Apache helicopter gunships by the end of the year.

What calls for serious attention is that the United States let South Korea build many fortified positions and military set-ups in the demilitarized zone (DMZ), a buffer zone with the military demarcation line in between, and recently deployed a large number of heavy weapons such as tanks, armoured cars and artillery.

The United States and the South Korean authorities bring thousands of military personnel armed with sophisticated weapons into the DMZ for military provocations against our side almost every day.

As a consequence, the south side's area of the DMZ has turned into an attack position for northward invasion, contrary to the original mission of the zone. It is no longer a buffer zone for the prevention of armed conflicts between the two sides.

Now that the Czechoslovak and Polish delegations have withdrawn from the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, the mechanism is not available in accordance with paragraph 37 of the Armistice Agreement.

But, the United States side is still holding regular meetings of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in an attempt to use the mechanism for covering up its war preparations for aggression.

The Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army decided to adopt the following measures, upon authorization, to counter the persistent acts of the United States side against our proposal for a new peace arrangement system:

(a) The office room, the rest room and the amusement room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom under our control shall be sealed completely;

(b) Since the armistice supervisory body has been broken, the personnel and journalists of the United States army side and officials of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission are totally prohibited from coming over to the section of our side in the Panmunjom joint security zone without permission;

(c) If the United States side remains an onlooker to the arms reinforcement and military provocations of the South Korean puppets in the south side's area of the DMZ under its control, we will take steps concerning the position of the DMZ to cope with them.

We will, in the future, too, sharply watch the attitude of the United States side and take steps, if necessary.

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S/1995/369
9 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to my letter dated 4 May 1995, in which we raised concerns and expressed our dissatisfaction over the transfer of civilian refugees and paramilitary Serb forces from Croatia into the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina without the knowledge or consent of my Government, we regret to inform you that this action has produced some far-reaching consequences beyond the violation of our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

First, this transfer has brought Croatian Serbs into the Pale Serb ethnically cleansed and occupied region of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We still remember that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have, wittingly or unwittingly, abetted the Pale Serbs in transporting forcefully expelled Bosniacs and Bosnian Croats from this same region. With this latest transfer of Croatian Serbs into Bosnia and Herzegovina, the vicious circle of ethnic cleansing is successfully closing.

These actions, maybe coincidentally, have been followed by new crimes against the Bosnian population in the Banja Luka region.

Serb militants, on the night of 6 to 7 May, destroyed with heavy explosives the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in the Banja Luka suburb of Petricevac, while a Franciscan monastery and a three-centuries-old library, both adjacent to the church, were set afire and burned beyond repair. In this attack, Father Alojzije Atlija, a Franciscan priest, lost his life. The same night another Roman Catholic church in the village Sarpovac at the outskirts of the city of Banja Luka was set afire and reduced to ashes.

This is the latest Serbian addition to the already impressive record of 37 churches destroyed, 38 damaged, and 24 parish buildings reduced to rubble, 4 priests killed, 400 Catholic constituents murdered and 55,000 Bosnian Croats from this region expelled from their homes and made refugees. We do not here recount the Serbian atrocities against the Muslim, Gypsy and "other" populations within the same part of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as those crimes inflicted upon their own Serb ethnic brethren.

This brand of Serbian terror in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of the Pale Serbs has not been adequately responded to by UNPROFOR, despite previous commitments. The Security Council must therefore take effective measures to address this issue.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Permanent Representative

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GENERAL

S/1995/370
9 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

President Izetbegovic's letter of yesterday, 7 May 1995 (S/1995/364) once again called the Council's attention to the incessant shelling and deliberate targeting of civilian areas in Sarajevo. In this instance, the target was the Sarajevo suburb of Hrasnica, well within the so-called "exclusion zone", and also at the base of the blue route and Mount Igman.

Although the latest shelling was especially devastating, resulting in dozens of dead and wounded civilians, it is by no means an isolated or even rare incident. This Sarajevo suburb is one of the linchpins of the blue route and of the lifeline to Sarajevo. While the Pale Serbs have been allowed to shut down Sarajevo airport, they have attempted to complete their strangulation of Sarajevo by shelling and sniping along the blue route, a direct violation of Security Council resolutions, the "exclusion zone" and the demilitarization agreements regarding Mount Igman.

These facts and strategy are fully known to the personnel of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) responsible for United Nations operations and decisions within our Republic. During my recent visit to Sarajevo, I participated in our Government's dialogue with the most senior UNPROFOR representatives, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Akashi, General Janvier, and General Smith. In the meeting, our government representatives once again demanded that this escalating strangulation be put to an end. In both the instances of the Pale Serb threats and the attacks on Sarajevo airport and on the blue route, these senior representatives of the Council claimed impotence and even a lack of mandate, describing their authority, rules of engagement, as being "purely peace-keeping".

With all due respect, there is no mention of "peace-keeping" in any of the Security Council resolutions giving UNPROFOR its authority, but rather specific mandates, including to keep the airport open and stop the shelling of Sarajevo, including under Chapter VII. We dare say the impotence is caused by a lack of political will and describing UNPROFOR's mandate as "purely peace-keeping" is an exercise in unauthorized redefining of the Security Council's resolutions.

During my recent visit to Sarajevo and quest to participate in the aforementioned meeting with UNPROFOR, I had the opportunity to experience first-hand this lack of will to fulfil UNPROFOR's most basic commitment. In lieu of taking effective measures to stop attacks upon the lower segment of the blue route, UNPROFOR agreed to transport in its armoured personnel carrier (APC), H.E. Mr. Ejup Ganic, member of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Presidency and Vice President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and myself down the most dangerous lower section of the road. When we arrived to the designated meeting place, unexplainably we were informed that UNPROFOR now would not come to pick us up and transport us down. A few hours earlier that day, at the bottom stretch of the blue route, a Bosnian car had been shot up by Serbian machine-gun fire and its driver effectively decapitated. Without the benefit of UNPROFOR APCs, and the clear precedent of the dead driver, we were left with no other choice but to proceed the last couple of kilometres down the mountain on foot. As we started, consecutive mortar shells started coming in from Serbian positions. The communications with UNPROFOR had been monitored by the Serbians and, knowing our vulnerability, we were now being directly targeted.

Putting aside dramatics, we made it down the mountain to the relative safety of the buildings of Hrasnica village. A Bosnian woman gathering wood on the mountain was less lucky. One of the mortar shells, a 120 mm whose remnants we picked up, inflicted ghastly wounds to the woman's legs and side from which she would be left horribly maimed. If we did not hear her feeble pleas for help as we ran down the hill, she would have suffered a long and painful death.

When we arrived at Hrasnica, we found the UNPROFOR APCs and soldiers in a sheltered area. They informed us that, although their orders had been initially to pick us up at the top of Mount Igman, their orders were subsequently verbally changed not to proceed.

The Bosnian Government does not assume that its officials have an inalienable right to be transported by UNPROFOR. However, we do assume that UNPROFOR will live up to its mandate and related commitments. Unfortunately, the safe area and "exclusion zone" around Sarajevo, including the blue route, are not being honoured. Neither is UNPROFOR observing its agreement with the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to deploy its forces preventively along the blue route in exchange for the previous removal of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina from this area. Lacking the fulfilment of these more comprehensive mandates and commitments, by default we had to rely upon UNPROFOR's safe transport. As I have already indicated, unfortunately even this last "substitute" commitment was ultimately not honoured.

Perhaps, in a moment of personal vulnerability and rage, I vowed that I would recommend to my Government to redeploy its troops and weapons from where they had been withdrawn in the agreement with UNPROFOR. Then, I became concerned that my recommendation may have been too prejudiced by personal experience. However, after yesterday's shelling of Hrasnica along the blue route and the consequent murder of the civilians, I am of the view that the only option left for our Government is to redeploy fully upon Mount Igman and respond to Serbian attacks in kind against their military positions. Therefore, I wiil

make such a recommendation in view of the ongoing lack of will on the part of those who are otherwise mandated to deter and respond.

For those members of the Council who consider this letter too disrespectful or lacking in normal diplomatic tact, I beforehand express my sadness for the fact that the entire Council has to suffer our anger, indignation and frustration. None the less, it is the Council as a whole that is responsible; that is being undermined in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and that has been increasingly hijacked by a few responsible Powers. Therefore, please do not look our way to express your displeasure. Look to those who are responsible for executing the Council's mandate and maintaining the authority and integrity of the Council at the highest level, ask them the relevant questions and express to them your indignation.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Permanent Representative

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/371
9 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The recent news that has reached my Government from Banja Luka in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is very disturbing. The local bishop, Msgr. Franjo Komarica, has informed my Government of a string of serious attacks in the past several days by Serbian paramilitaries aimed at Catholic clerics and the remaining Croats in the region.

On 4 May 1995, Serbian paramilitaries expelled nuns from two historic Catholic convents, at Bosanski Aleksandrovac and Nova Topola. On 5 May a Catholic church in Vujnovići, on the outskirts of Banja Luka, was completely burned down. Finally, on 7 May in the early morning hours, Serbian paramilitary forces rounded up all the friars and nuns from the Franciscan monastery in the Petrićevac suburb of Banja Luka, and in their presence dynamited both the convent and the church. This resulted in the death of one of the Franciscan brothers, Father Alojzije Atlija, OFM, who had been paralysed. The expelled clerics and nuns have now found refuge with the bishop in Banja Luka. The same night saw the destruction of the church at Šargovci, three miles from Banja Luka.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the Diocese of Banja Luka has suffered immensely: a total of 55,000 Catholics have been ethnically cleansed, over 400 have been murdered in their homes, 4 priests have been killed, 37 churches destroyed and 32 more churches damaged - all of this in the region that never saw any military activity and was from the beginning of the conflict firmly under the control of the Bosnian Serbs.

My Government requests that the relevant international monitors be sent to the Banja Luka region to assure that no further harm comes to the non-Serbian population in this nearly completely ethnically cleansed area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and supports the concerns expressed by the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the letter submitted to you today in this regard (S/1995/369).

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

95-13963 (E) 090595 100595

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/372
8 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 724 (1991) CONCERNING YUGOSLAVIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia, I wish to inform you of the following matter of importance and concern to the Committee.

The Government of Romania, supported by other Danube riparian States, the Danube Commission and the European Union/Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (EU/OSCE) Sanctions Coordinator, requested authorization for vessels of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to be allowed to use the Romanian locks of the Iron Gates I system, on the left bank of the Danube, while repairs are carried out to the locks on the right bank. The riparian States and international organizations concerned asked for the Committee's assistance, stressing the importance for safe international navigation on the Danube of the Iron Gates I system being properly maintained and repaired in a timely manner.

At several meetings, the Committee carefully considered this matter, including technical reports and other expert materials submitted by the Danube Commission.

The Committee also took into account the need and readiness of Romania to ensure, in cooperation with the Sanctions Assistance Mission in that country, that vessels of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), if allowed to use the Romanian locks of the system, would not engage in any activities contravening the relevant Security Council resolutions.

At the 124th meeting of the Committee, on 8 May 1995, its members decided to recommend, in view of the exceptional circumstances as well as the provisions contained in paragraph 16 of resolution 820 (1993), that the Security Council consider the adoption of a technical resolution on the matter.

(Signed) Emilio J. CARDENAS
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant
to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia

95-13927 (E) 090595 100595